

Week 1 : The war on the Eastern Front

August 23rd 1939—Hitler and Stalin signed the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact (Molotov– Ribentrop Pact).

- The two countries agreed in public to take no military action against each other for the next 10 years
- In private, the agreement also secretly divided Eastern Europe into Soviet and German spheres of influence.
- Hitler broke the agreement in June 1941 when he launched Operation Barbarossa. This was the code name for the invasion of the Soviet Union.
- August 1942– Feb 1943 Battle of Stalingrad
- Stalingrad– Russian city of industrial significance
- More than 2 million troops fought in close quarters and nearly 2 million were injured or killed, including civilians.

Week 2: Pearl Harbour

- The Attack on Pearl Harbour happened on December 7th, 1941.
- Japanese airplanes made an attack on the US Navy in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii.
- They destroyed many ships and killed many soldiers.
- The Japanese thought that if they took out the war ships in Pearl Harbour, then the United States Navy would be crippled and would never attack.
- The attack on Pearl Harbour came as a complete surprise. Hundreds of Japanese fighter planes and bombers flew to Pearl Harbour and attacked.
- In total, approximately 2400 American died in the attack
- The attack on Pearl Harbour forced America to enter World War Two

Week 3: The War in South East Asia

- The Battle of Midway was between the Americans and the Japanese—4-7th June 1942
- Midway Atoll— this was a major U.S. naval base in the South Pacific. Battleships, planes and submarines were based there.
- Japan wanted to occupy Midway to convert it to an airbase and to remove the Americans as a threat in the Pacific.
- The Japanese military used codes to communicate over the radio which they changed often, but in early 1942 they left the codes unchanged. They spoke about destroying 'AF'
- American code breakers thought they could be talking about Midway.
- The Japanese initially were successful in the battle—their 'zero' fighter planes outnumbered the American planes.
- The Americans dive bombers attacked the Japanese planes when they went back to their aircraft carriers to refuel and rearm.
- The Japanese were forced to call off the Midway Operation and retreat.

Week 4: D-Day

- June 6th 1944
- Britain, America, Canada and France attacked the German forces on the coast of Normandy, France.
- Before the Allies landed, they sent over 1000 bombers a day to bomb railroads, bridges, airfields and roads to slow the Germans down.
- The landings took place on five beaches with the code names Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword
- On the day of the invasion, the Allies drop paratroopers (soldiers with parachutes) as well as sending in over 6000 ships with soldiers, weapons and tanks
- The D-Day landings had been planned for months, but nearly didn't happen because of the weather.

Week 5: The Battle of Berlin

- One of the last major battles of Second World War.- 16 April to 3 May 1945.
- During the battle the Red Army (Soviet soldiers), along with Polish forces, captured the city of Berlin, Germany.
- Almost 1,000,000 allies with 20,000 artillery pieces were fighting against 100,000 Germans with 1,200 tanks.
- Despite this, the German defenders managed to hold the allies for four days.
- Hitler had been advised to leave Berlin, however he had stayed, hopeful that Berlin could be saved.
- When the Reichstag was captured, Adolf Hitler committed suicide with his new wife by shooting himself and her taking a cyanide pill.

Week 6 : Week 5: The Atomic Bombs

- In 1945, the USA dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, effectively ending World War Two.
 - On the 6th August, the first bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima
 - It exploded 600metres above the city and flattened 5 square miles of buildings.
 - Within five days, 140,000 had died
 - On the 9th August, the Japanese city of Nagasaki was bombed
 - 75,000 people were killed
 - On 14th August Japan surrendered
- The damage caused by nuclear radiation continued to make people sick and die for years after the bombing